

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Survey No. <sup>B-</sup>4668

### 1. Name

Historic 1502-1520 North Bethel Street  
and / common

### 2. Location

street & number 1502-1520 North Bethel Street  
city, town Baltimore  
state & zip code Maryland 21205 county

### 3. Classification

#### Category

☐ district  
☒ building(s)  
☐ structure  
☐ site  
☐ object

#### Ownership

☐ public  
☒ private  
☐ both

#### Public Acquisition

☐ in process  
☐ being considered  
☐ not applicable

#### Status

☒ occupied  
☐ unoccupied  
☐ work in progress

#### Accessible

☒ yes: restricted  
☐ yes: unrestricted  
☐ no

#### Present Use

☐ agriculture  
☐ commercial  
☐ educational  
☐ entertainment  
☐ government  
☐ industrial  
☐ military  
☐ museum  
☐ park  
☒ private residence  
☐ religious  
☐ scientific  
☐ transportation  
☐ other:

### 4. Owner of Property

name  
street & number telephone  
city, town state & zip code

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Land Records liber  
street & number Clarence Mitchell Courthouse folio  
city, town Baltimore State Maryland

### 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title  
date federal state county local  
depository for survey records  
city, town state & zip code

## 7. Description

Condition		Check One	Check One
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date of move: _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This row of twelve two-story, two-bay wide houses late Italianate-style brick houses (nine remain) with shed roofs and wooden scroll-sawn bracketed cornices were built in 1891-92 by John Hoffacker, a major builder of working class houses in East Baltimore. Most of the houses retain their original brick facades, which have been painted.

The houses are two stories in height, 12' wide (13' for the end houses), and occupy lots 70' deep. Each house is three small rooms deep and there is no back building. The houses are constructed in running bond and were originally painted. The basement area may have been painted white, to imitate marble, as was common in houses of this type. Each house has two hooded chimneys located at the mid-point of the two front rooms. The shed roofs are capped by a continuous wooden cornice consisting of a crown molding supported by three long scroll-sawn brackets decorated with acanthus leaves, connected by a lower molding strip, and ending with a distinct trefoil pattern. The frieze area, which also serves as ventilation for the attic, is decorated with a row of scallop shapes, created with a jig saw, punctuated by four smaller scroll-sawn brackets. Below the frieze two ventilator panels, decorated with jig-sawn arabesques, further decorate the façade.

The tall, narrow window and door openings have segmentally arched brick lintels and scroll-sawn tympanums. The 1/1 sash seem to be original. The sills are wood. Both the doorway and the first floor window have single-light transoms, but no original doors remain. The houses sit on fairly low basements, lit by a single-light sash, and marked by a "watertable" consisting of three rows of slightly projecting stretcher bricks. Each house is reached by three concrete steps.

## 8. Significance

Period	Area of significance	check one & justify			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	humanitarian	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theatre	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other: specify	

**Specific dates** 1891-92

**Builder/Architect** John Hoffacker

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This group of houses is significant in that it represents the level of architectural stylishness achieved by many builders of small street houses in the late nineteenth century. The houses were built by John Hoffacker, a fairly prolific Baltimore builder, according to a pattern that was quite common to the city's working class neighborhoods of the period c. 1880 to 1910. Recognizing that workers held different levels of jobs (and pay), builders created a hierarchy of two-story house sizes (and prices) in the new neighborhoods going up to serve the expanding factory districts ringing the harbor and northeast of the central city. Builders acquired anywhere from an eighth to a half of a city block and built 14' to 15'-wide two-story houses on the main streets, and smaller, 11' to 13'-wide two-story houses on the narrower streets bisecting the blocks.

In this particular case Hoffacker built all of the houses in the west half of this block, three story, three-bay wide (15'3") houses on the east side of Bond St., which sold for \$1,550 (with \$45.75 ground rents), two-story, three-bay wide (13') houses on Oliver and Federal Streets, which sold for \$1,250 (with \$39 ground rents), and 12' wide houses on Bethel St., which sold for \$550 (with a \$36 ground rent).

Hoffacker sold the houses he built on the main streets to mainly German-American (and some Irish) owner-occupants, who received their mortgages from a select group of local Northeast Baltimore building and loans, including notably, the 21st German-American Building Association. The Bethel St. houses sold to both owner-occupants and local investors.

## 9. Major Bibliographic References

Mary Ellen Hayward and Charles Belfoure, *The Baltimore Rowhouse*  
(New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1999)

## 10. Geographic Data

Acreage of nominated property

Quadrangle name

Verbal boundary description and justification

## 11. Form Prepared by

name / title Dr. Mary Ellen Hayward

Organization The Alley House Project

street & number 1306 Carrollton Ave.

city, town Baltimore

date June 2000

telephone

state & zip code Maryland 21204

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of property rights.

Return to:  
DHCP/DHCD  
Maryland Historical Trust  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville MD 21032-2023



B-4668

1502-1520 N. BETHEL ST  
BALTO. MD

ROAD

AVE

TUNNEL

ST JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL

SCHOOL

ST PAUL'S  
RC CATHOLIC  
CH

RIDGE

ST

ENTRANCE  
TO TUNNEL  
UNION P.R.R.

CHURCH  
OF THE  
REDEEMER  
N. BETHEL ST  
OLIVER PL

HALESLEY PL.

NORTH

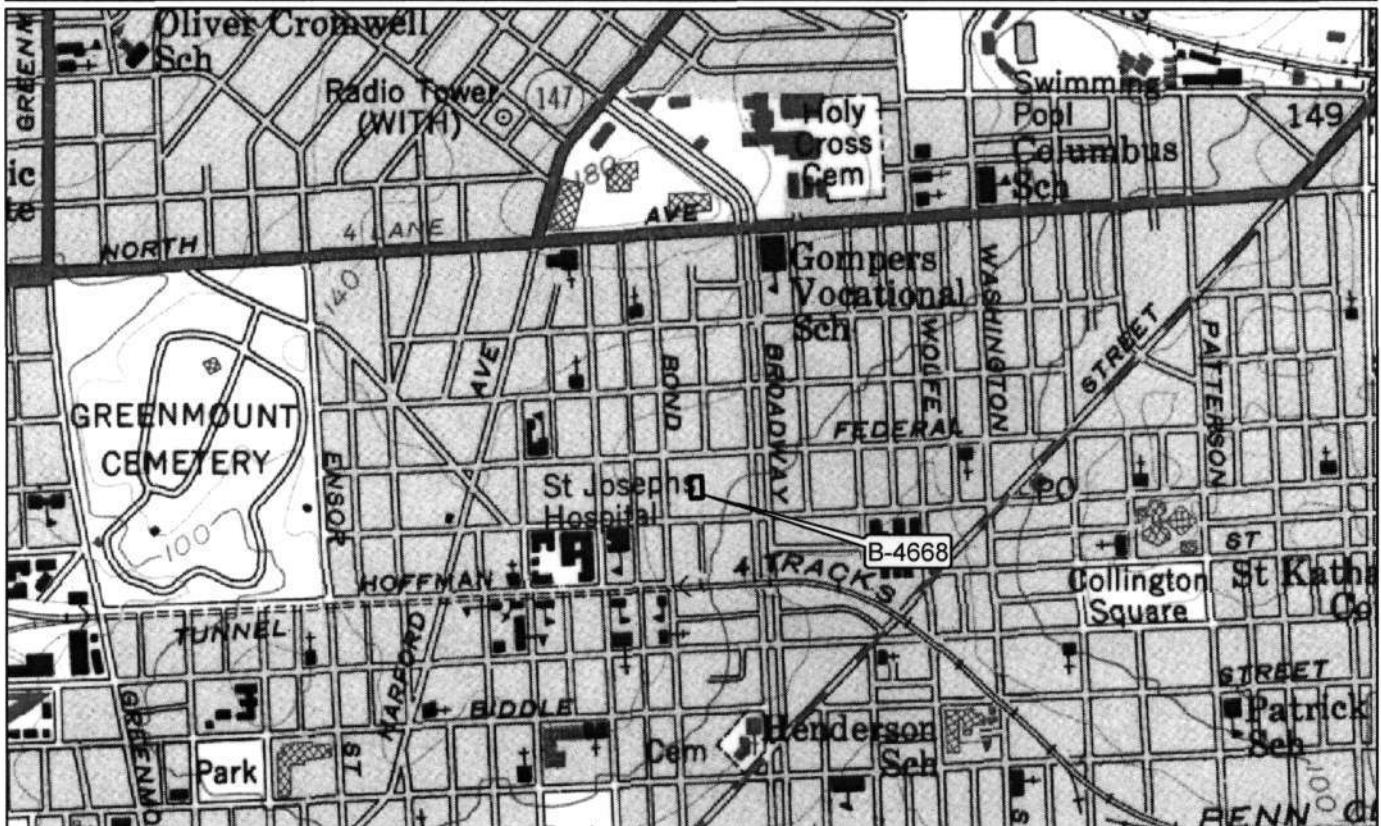
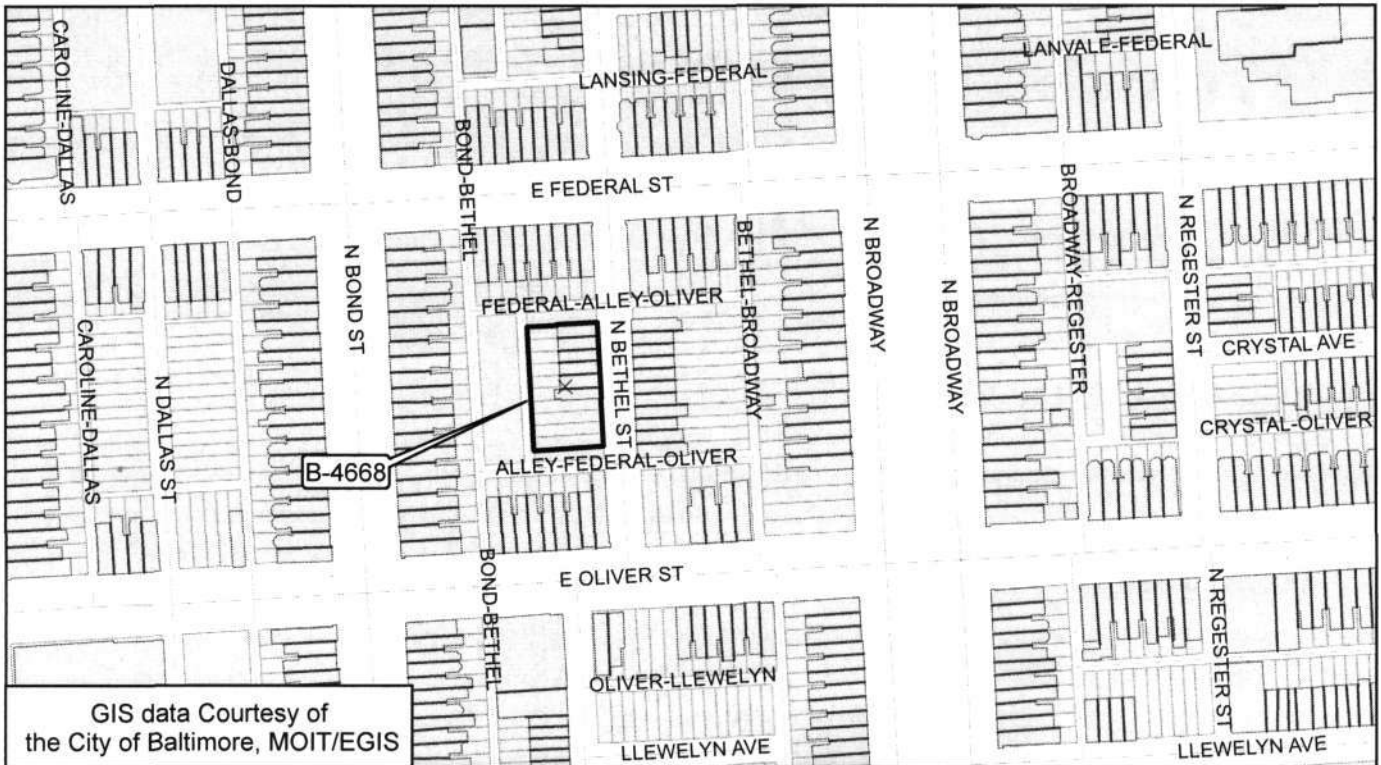
1906 City Atlas

N

N

B-4668  
1502-1520 N. Bethel Street  
Block 1127, Lots 087-096  
Baltimore City  
Baltimore East Quad.

## 1502-1508 Demolished





1502-1520 Bethel

B-4668 1

1502-1520 N. Bethel St.

BALTO. MD

W. Nield

11/96

100

[02]115 0211 N N N 11/10 SHPO

11/2





1502 Bethel

B-4668

1502 N. Bethel St.

BALTO. MD

W. Nield

11/96

2/2

100

FOI115 0211 N N N 12